Celebration of Shri Aurobindo's 125th Birth Anniversary

*289. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-committee is being set-up to celebrate the 125th Birth Anniversary of the great patriot and philosopher Shri Aurobindo; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. The celebrations will start on 15th August, 1997. A National Committee to guide the celebrations is being constituted.

Vacancies in Various Institutes of the Ministry

*292 SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of Heads of different Institutes under the Ministry are lying vacant for long periods;

(b) whether in Wild Life Institute of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Forest Survey of India etc. large number of posts at lower levels in reserve category are vacant;

(c) if so, the dates since when these posts are vacant;

(d) the reasons for not filling these posts; and

(e) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House as statement—I (see below)

(b) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House as statement—II

Statement I

1. Director, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur (since January 10, 1997).
2. Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehra Dun (since December 16, 1996).
3. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun (since January 25, 1995).
4. Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal (since October 1, 1994)
5. Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore (since June 1, 1991).

Statement II

	Name of the Institute/organisation.	No. of posts lying vacant in reserve category at lower levels.	Vaccant since when	Reasons for not filling the vacancies	By when the vacant posts are likely to be filled.
	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Wildife Institute of India, Dehra Dun.	1	July, 1995	Non-availability of eligible candidates.	At the earliest.

1	2	3	4	5
2. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.	14	After 1993-94	The Institute has been recruiting personnel against the vacant posts as per its requirements for various activities in phases.	Recruitment formalities are expected to be completed within two months.
3. Forest Survey of India, Dehra Dun.	1	January, 1991	SSC-selected candidates did not join	Efforts are being made to obtain 'NOC' from SSC and recruit candidates from Employment Exchange.
4. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehra Dun	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun				
(a). Instiurte of Forest Productivity, Ranchi.	17	since 1996	Applications in response to an advertisement have been received and an examination has also been conducted in Feb. '97. Interview letters to the candidates qualified for interview are being issued for final selection.	
(b). Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur.	6	-do-	Efforts are being made to obtain 'NOC' from the Staff Selection Commission to fill up the 5 ministerial posts through Local Employment Exchange. Interview for one Group 'D' post has been held on 18.2.97	
(c). Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bangalore.	3	-do-	Candidates have been selected for the posts. Verification of character and attecendents is being done. Vacancies are expected to be filled up shortly.	
(d). Institute of Rail and Moist Deciduous Forest Research, Jorhat.	8	-do-	Interview has already been conducted on 27.2.97 and the vacancies are expected to be filled by 31.3.97.	

1		2	3	4	5
7.	Directorate of Forest Education, Dehra Dun.	5	2 vacancies since july '92 1 vacancy since March '93 1 vacnacy since November' 94 1 vacancy since June' 96	3 cases pending with SSC, Allahabad and 2 pending for amendment of Recruitment Rules.	Cases pending with SSC are to be filled under Special Recruitment Drive 1996-97. Cases pending for amendment of Recruitment Rules are to be finalised within 2 months
8.	Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.	3	Reported in Special Recruitment Drive as on 15.7.96	Selections have been pending with the UPSC/SSC.	Efforts are being made to fill up the vacancies through the Special Recruitment Drive 1996-97.
9.	Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.	6	Reported in special Recruitment Drive as on 15.7.96.	Selections have been pending with the UPSC/SSC.	Efforts are being made to fill up the vacancies through the Special Recruitment Drive 1996-97.
10.	Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi.	2	Reported in Special Recruitment Drive as on 15.7.96.	Selection for one vacancy has been pending with the SSC.	1 vacancy is expected to be filled by 31st March, 1997. The other may take longer time, as it is pending with the SSC.

Dry Land Development

*293. SHRI ANANTRARY DEV SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Zone Arid Research Institute has undertaken a programme for dry land development for growing crops in various States;

(b) whether the Institute has set up number of farms in different States of the country;